

Resolution No. _____
County Administration Bldg.
Santa Rosa, CA

Date: _____

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY OF INTENTION TO
PREPARE A GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE
SANTA ROSA PLAIN OF SONOMA COUNTY.

WHEREAS, on _____, the Sonoma County Water Agency's Board directed staff to initiate a non-regulatory groundwater management planning process in the Santa Rosa Plain; and

WHEREAS, for purposes of this Resolution and the development of a groundwater management plan, the Santa Rosa Plain includes Santa Rosa Plain Basin watershed as defined by the United States Geological Survey (USGS), which includes the Santa Rosa Plain groundwater subbasin (Department of Water Resources (DWR) groundwater subbasin 1-55.01), the Rincon Valley groundwater subbasin (DWR groundwater subbasin 1-55.03) located on the eastern side of the city of Santa Rosa, the northern half of the Kenwood Valley groundwater basin (DWR groundwater basin 2-19) located along the eastern boundary of the USGS study area, and eastern portions of the Wilson Grove Formation Highlands groundwater basin (DWR groundwater basin 1-59).

WHEREAS, active public participation is critical to the success of development of any groundwater planning effort; and

WHEREAS, as part of initiating a groundwater management planning process in the Santa Rosa Plain, a Basin Advisory Panel (BAP) was formed to lead development of the groundwater management plan for the Santa Rosa Plain; and

WHEREAS, the BAP includes stakeholders from throughout the Santa Rosa Plain representing agricultural interests, local citizen groups, environmental groups, business interests, local well owners and government interests; and

WHEREAS, the BAP has been meeting since December 2011 to begin the groundwater management planning process in the Santa Rosa Plain; and

WHEREAS, development of a groundwater management plan would provide for the effective management of groundwater resources in the Santa Rosa Plain; and

WHEREAS, the California Water Code requires that before a groundwater management plan can be prepared, a local public agency must provide notice and hold a hearing regarding the local public agency's intent to prepare a Groundwater Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) was formed in 1949 by a special legislative act of the State of California ("Agency Act") and is a stakeholder of the Basin Advisory Panel; and

WHEREAS, under the Agency Act, the Agency may provide for the protection and preservation of groundwater resources in Sonoma County for current and future beneficial uses and may develop, adopt, and implement a plan to manage groundwater resources in the Santa Rosa Plain; and

WHEREAS, by completing a Groundwater Management Plan, existing and future State funding may be available for plan implementation; and

WHEREAS, a hearing has been duly noticed and held as required by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency hereby finds, determines, and declares as follows:

1. All of the above recitals are true and correct.
2. The Agency intends to prepare a Groundwater Management Plan for the Santa Rosa Plain of Sonoma County. The Groundwater Management Plan will be developed and implemented under the governance structure described in Attachment 1 to this Resolution.
3. The General Manager is authorized and directed to take such steps as are necessary to develop the Groundwater Management Plan for the Santa Rosa Plain, for Board consideration, and to publish a copy of this Resolution as required by law.
4. Upon completion of a Groundwater Management Plan, the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency will consider adopting and implementing the Groundwater Management Plan in accordance with the process required by law.
5. The General Manager shall take such steps as are necessary to ensure that the Groundwater Management Plan for the Santa Rosa Plain contains at least the following components:
 - a) Basin Management Objectives;

- b) Components relating to the monitoring and management of groundwater levels, groundwater banking, groundwater quality, inelastic land surface subsidence, changes in surface flow and surface water quality that directly affect groundwater levels or quality or are caused by groundwater pumping, and a description of how recharge areas identified in the plan substantially contribute to the replenishment of the groundwater basin;
 - c) Monitoring protocols to track changes in conditions related to components in paragraph (b) and to generate information for the purpose of meeting Basin Management Objectives and establishing effective management of groundwater;
 - d) A plan to involve other local agencies, water purveyors, and private well owners in the development of the Groundwater Management Plan;
 - e) A map depicting the Santa Rosa Plain including identifying the recharge areas of the Santa Rosa Plain, and the areas to be covered by the Groundwater Management Plan; and
 - f)
- 6. The General Manager shall take such steps as are necessary to ensure active public participation in the groundwater management planning process and shall coordinate and staff the Basin Advisory Panel meetings which will serve to provide a forum for public involvement in the development of the Groundwater Management Plan. To support the groundwater management planning process, the Agency shall develop a plan for public involvement which shall be consistent with Attachment 1 and include at least the following:
 - a) The formulation of a Technical Advisory Committee to guide development of the Groundwater Management Plan;
 - b) Preparation of a Communication & Outreach Plan;
 - c) Provision of public review and comment periods, and public hearings pursuant to Water Code Section 10753 et seq.
- 7. The General Manager is authorized the terminate preparation of the Groundwater Management Plan if determined to be in the best interest of the Water Agency.

DIRECTORS:

BROWN _____ RABBITT _____ McGUIRE _____ CARRILLO _____ ZANE

Ayes _____ Noes _____ Absent _____ Abstain _____

SO ORDERED.